

Middle East News

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Algerian leaders deny differences

PARIS (Agencies) — Algerian Prime Minister Redha Malek and army leaders denied Saturday press reports of official differences on how to face the political violence and social crisis rocking the country.

The Algerian news agency APS quoted statements issued by Algeria's premier and army officials as saying there were no political "differences" between civilian and military leaders.

"I would like to affirm that... there is constant coordination between the president (Lamine Zeroual) and myself on the action in the field," APS quoted Mr. Malek as saying.

The struggle against the barbarian terrorism implicates all state institutions."

Officials label as "terrorists" Muslim fundamentalist militants blamed for a wave of violence that in the last two years has killed more than 3,000 people, among them foreigners, members of the security forces, civilians and Muslim militants.

The Algiers daily Al Watan on Saturday strongly criticised the call for political dialogue made recently by Mr. Zeroual.

"Zeroual's decision of continuing the political dialogue with the ex-Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leaders in jail might endanger the army's unity," Al Watan said.

The president said on Friday he would start talks next week with leaders of political and social organisations.

"The question is whether the army would guarantee an approach that may lead, in the coming months, to Algeria's disappearance?" Al Watan added.

Mr. Zeroual's call for dialogue did not mention whether it would be extended to leaders of the banned FIS.

"The armed forces' role is to stay constantly at the disposal of the state authorities in charge of political power," APS quoted the Peoples'

National Army (ANP) statement as saying.

The ANP expresses "its confidence in President Zeroual's delicate mission," the statement said.

In January a national conference designed to find ways of halting the crisis in the country of 26 million was boycotted by the opposition and representatives of the banned FIS.

There have been unconfirmed reports that Mr. Zeroual is negotiating secretly to draw the banned Islamic Salvation Front into some sort of transitional coalition government.

Mr. Zeroual was named to head the army-backed government at the end of January after talks with the opposition collapsed. Since then, violence has persisted, culminating in an attack by militants on a prison March 10, freeing hundreds of inmates.

Security forces have since killed dozens of the escapees.

Guerrillas entered the Algiers area home of Yahia Djamael Benzaghou on Saturday and killed him, a hospital source said. There was no claim of responsibility for the slaying of Benzaghou, 52, who was a friend of Prime Minister Malek. He was the 12th journalist slain since May last year.

The slaying came less than 24 hours after the Armed Islamic Group threatened new attacks on journalists and foreigners. The group said in a message that it "opposes any dialogue, reconciliation or truce" with the government.

Four other people were killed since Wednesday, including a prosecutor, the leader of the mosque and a woman near a medical clinic, officials said. Three other people were wounded.

Overnight Friday, militants burned an 11-car train 60 kilometres east of Algiers after forcing the 300 passengers to get out, security forces said Saturday.

Egypt to rebuild Amon Ra temple

CAIRO (R) — After years of indecision, Egypt is to dismantle a threatened 2,600-year-old temple to the pharaonic god Amon Ra and rebuild it, probably on a site nearby.

The remote temple, with its avenue of sphinxes leading to pylons (gateways) and a sequence of three pillared halls before the sanctuary, is at Hibis in the western oasis of Kharga.

The building, which is complete, with extensively decorated reliefs and inscriptions, is in serious danger from ground water and Egyptologists believe urgent action is needed.

The project will be the most ambitious of its kind in Egypt since the operation to save, more than a dozen temples of Nubia, including that of Abu Simbel, from the waters rising behind the newly built Aswan High Dam in the 1960s.

Ali Hassan, head of the pharaonic section at the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, said the organisation had decided to award a 25 million pound (\$7.4 million) contract for the work to the Italian company Condotte Mazzini Esteri Spa.

Once the company dismantles the temple, it will test the site to see if it can strengthen the foundations and rebuild the temple in exactly the same position.

"If not, if the subsoil water prevents them from doing that, we will move the temple 300 metres to higher ground," Mr. Hassan told Reuters in an interview.

Mr. Hassan said the fate of the temple had been in the balance since 1975, when it became clear that recently introduced agriculture around the temple was damaging the structure.

The foundations have in fact been weak from the start — work on the building began under the 26th dynasty (664-525 BC) and in the 4th century B.C. wooden clamps and but-

tresses were added in an attempt to correct some subsidence.

Now there are cracks in the walls. Wooden beams support some of the walls and pieces of masonry are falling off.

"We have to do something. If there was an earthquake, it would turn the temple into powder," Mr. Hassan said.

"Since 1975 we have been discussing it at hundreds of meetings but they never succeeded because there was always this dilemma — whether to move the temple or leave it in its original place," he added.

Mr. Hassan said he personally would rather see the temple rebuilt on its present site. "I have the feeling there's maybe a 30 per cent chance of this. This is my hope and my desire which I am fighting for, even if we have to pay some more money to the company to help them go ahead," he said.

If the experts do decide it has to move, they will have it rebuilt with its axis in the same direction and aligned in much the same way in relation to a sacred lake nearby and to the desert landscape around it.

Mr. Hassan said that apart from being one of the largest in Egypt, the temple was also unusual in that it included elements from four periods of Egyptians history — the Pharaonic, the Persian, the Ptolemaic and the Roman.

The Persian King Darius I had it rebuilt during the first Persian occupation of Egypt, which lasted from 525 to 404 BC.

It contains an inscription from AD 68 with unique information about the rights of women, probably derived from ancient Egyptian texts, Mr. Hassan said.

The temple lies 520 kilometres south of Cairo and about 170 kilometres from the Nile Valley.

The work is expected to take about 30 months to complete.

Dostum jet attacks presidential palace

KABUL (Agencies) — A warlord's jet fighters bombed near the presidential palace on Sunday, and rocket fire between rival factions left at least 100 injured elsewhere in the capital.

The bombing raids by warlord Rashid Dostum's pilots marked the first air strike on the capital in about six weeks.

General Dostum has a limited number of working planes and they have not been particularly effective in his efforts to oust President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The president's army has been under attack since Jan. 1 by the combined forces of Gen. Dostum and renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. The president still holds most of the capital despite the intense fighting that has left more than 1,000 dead and 12,000 injured.

Gen. Dostum's jets targeted the presidential palace and the Defence Ministry in the city centre, as well as the Inter-Continental Hotel, where the president and his top assistants were held.

The rival factions, allied when they ousted a communist government in April 1992, have been battling each other for the past two years. Much of the capital has been flattened and hundreds of thousands have been driven from their homes.

Sunday's air attack appeared to be in retaliation for a reported early morning bombing of the Charasyab base outside Kabul held by Mr. Hekmatyar.

Mr. Rabbani's jets had earlier attacked three transport planes unloading supplies at Charasyab, said commander Zalmay of Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami party.

Six bombs were dropped near Charasyab, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE cabinet change said to be imminent

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan was quoted on Sunday as saying that a cabinet reshuffle in the UAE might be imminent. He said in an interview with the London-based Al Hayat newspaper, also published by the official Emirates News Agency WAM, that in most countries cabinet changes have to take place. Asked if there was a possibility of a near future cabinet reshuffle in the UAE, Sheikh Zayed said: "Yes". The last cabinet reshuffle in the UAE was in 1990. In February Oil Minister Yousef Ben Omer Ben Yousef, who was appointed in 1990, resigned and Health Minister Ahmad Ben Said Al Badi was named as acting oil minister.

Dalai Lama begins visit to Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama began a five-day visit to Israel on Sunday, saying he hoped to promote religious harmony among Jews, Muslim and Christians. The Dalai Lama, the Buddhist "God-king" who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, was in Israel as guest of the Society for the Protection of Nature. He was due to meet leaders of all three faiths, receive an honorary fellowship from Hebrew University and visit holy sites. The Society for the Protection of Nature said he was invited to take part in its 40th anniversary celebration as a world figure in the areas of conservation and ecology. The Dalai Lama has been in exile in India since a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese troops.

Manila to pay fine for Somali-held Filipinos

MANILA (R) — The Philippines will pay the fine demanded by Somali militiamen for the release of 23 Filipino crewmen on a Taiwanese trawler caught poaching in Somali waters. Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo said on Sunday. Mr. Romulo, interviewed on private Manila radio DZXL, said Manila would seek reimbursement from the shipowners. The foreign office said the Filipinos were arrested by militiamen last month while illegally fishing off Alula in northeastern Somalia. Mr. Romulo did not say how much the Somalis were demanding. Manila newspapers, quoting diplomatic reports, said the amount was \$20,000. Mr. Romulo said the amount was not a ransom but "a fine" for intrusion into Somali waters. "We will go after the owners," he said, without identifying them. Officials have not released the name of the vessel.

Thais consult with Israel over bomb plot

BANGKOK (R) — Senior Thai police officers have consulted Israeli embassy officials after the discovery of a one-tonne truck bomb which police suspect was intended for an attack on the mission. The Thai officers met diplomats for two hours on Saturday afternoon, an Israeli embassy official said on Sunday. The official refused to comment on local newspaper reports that Israel was sending experts to help Thai police investigating the bungled plot. Police stumbled upon the bomb on Thursday when they found a water tank containing explosives and detonators and a body in the back of a truck which they had impounded and parked outside a police station on March 11. Earlier on that day the rented truck had been involved in a minor traffic accident several hundred metres from the Israeli embassy in central Bangkok. The man driving at the time, whom witnesses described as of Middle Eastern appearance, fled on foot.

Algeria denies seeking extradition from Sofia

PARIS (R) — Algeria's Foreign Ministry on Saturday said four Algerians seeking political asylum in Bulgaria had never been sentenced to death and no demand had been made for them to be extradited. "Contrary to the information published by Bulgarian press, Algeria made no demand for the extradition of the four Algerian citizens... (and) they were not under any death sentence," the Algerian news agency APS quoted the ministry as saying. APS monitored in Paris said an official denial would be issued by the Algerian embassy in Sofia. Last Tuesday, four Algerians named as Mohammad Benoua, Lahcen Chahebi, Jamer Hamed and Daoud Okene were held at Sofia airport on arrival from Morocco. They were threatened with expulsion to Algeria, where they said military courts had sentenced them to death. French lawyer Jacques Verges had appealed to Bulgaria not to deport them. Mr. Verges, an outspoken lawyer, has recently acted for Algerian Muslim fundamentalists arrested in France.

Kuwait doctors plan Gulf skin bank

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti doctors would like to set up a "skin bank" in the emirate as a support unit for burns surgery in Gulf Arab countries, a newspaper reported on Sunday. "We hope to set up plans for a 'skin bank' centre in Kuwait for all the GCC states," Abdul Redha Lari, president of the Kuwait Society of Plastic Surgeons, was quoted as saying by the English-language Arab Times. At present hospitals in the region have to use skin banks in Europe and the United States. Dr. Lari said at a meeting in Kuwait of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Association of Plastic Surgeons. The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. "The centre, which would accept both cadaver and donated skin, is badly needed due to the many burns cases being treated through... hospitals in the GCC region," Dr. Lari said. The newspaper said burns cases had risen in Kuwait in recent years because of injuries sustained by residents during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation and due to injuries caused by explosions of left-over mines following the emirate's Gulf war liberation.

Kurdish spring turns violent in Germany

BERLIN (AP) — Over 80 German police were injured in battles with Kurds demonstrating for an independent homeland during the Kurdish spring festival, police said Sunday. The clashes took place Saturday in widely separate Berlin and Bavaria. At least two Kurds were injured in Berlin when their clothes caught fire as they used firebombs, and in the Bavarian city of Augsburg two Kurds were injured, police said. Police in Berlin and Augsburg said altogether 24 Kurds were held to face riot charges, and 516 others had details of their identities taken to face possible charges of assault, theft, disturbing the peace and immigration violations.

Kuwait court drops demand to recall assault victim; Farhats press campaign

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Kuwaiti appeals court has dropped its demand that a Lebanese woman reappear in court to testify in the appeal hearing of a former Kuwaiti police officer who has been convicted of murdering her father and brother but acquitted of charges of raping her, a family member said Sunday.

Naimat Farhat, 35, who now lives in the U.S., was asked by the court to reappear during a hearing last month, but the woman, who is half paralysed by injuries she sustained during the four-year-old attack on her residence in Kuwait, refused to do so, said her brother Naim.

"Obviously they wanted to put her through further humiliation and insult, and she refused," Mr. Farhat told the Jordan Times over the phone.

He said the family had sought official American government intervention in the matter and the State Department got in touch with the concerned parties.

"Subsequently, the court said there was a mistake in the proceedings and there was no need for her to appear in court," said Mr. Farhat.

International human rights organisations and lawyers unions have denounced the ori-

ginal ruling of a Kuwaiti court that found Jaber Al Omairi guilty of killing Ismail Farhat and Osama Farhat but cleared him of charges of raping Naimat Farhat.

According to Miss Farhat, who at that time was 32, Mr. Omairi forced his way into the Farhat residence on March 2, 1991, in the closing days of the war to end the Iraqi occupation of the emirate, bound her father and brother, raped her twice, killed the father and brother, and shot her in the head.

Ms. Farhat survived the attack and was transferred to the U.S. where she now lives with her brother and the rest of the family.

The Farhats, who brought heavy pressure on the Kuwaiti government to have Mr. Omairi tried, have described the verdict as unjust since the court rejected the rape charge and held back the death penalty saying the killings were motivated by "patriotism" because he suspected the family of collaborating with the Iraqi invaders.

The Farhats say that senior Kuwaiti officials had ordered the killings and that the Kuwaiti government and judiciary had made Mr. Omairi a scapegoat and covered up the role of others who were indirectly involved in the assault on the family. The defendant, who was

sentenced to life, is appealing the case in the supreme court. The first hearing was on Feb. 20, when the court demanded Ms. Farhat's reappearance on March 26.

Experts familiar with the case say that it is most likely that the appeal will be accepted and the sentence could be reduced particularly that the high court had adjudged that the defendant had killed the two men believing that "he was carrying out a patriotic act."

Arab and international lawyers have ridiculed the Kuwaiti system of justice for the dismissal of rape charges against Mr. Omairi on grounds that there was not supportive evidence and the only testimony to support the charge was that of the victim herself.

Kuwaiti justice tells that a virgin Muslim Arab is willing to stand before a court of law, take the oath of the Koran, and falsely announce that she was dishonoured," said the London-based Arab lawyers' network.

Kuwaiti justice seems to be still living the legendary capabilities of its heroic patriot Nairah Al Sabah who made fools of American congressmen," said the statement. It was referring to the daughter of the then Kuwaiti ambassador to Washington, Saad Nasser Al Sabah, who appeared before the U.S.

"An end to human rights crimes in Kuwait and compensation made to all past victims of Kuwaiti government crimes."

The withdrawal is scheduled to be completed, six days ahead of the March 31 deadline set by President Clinton

last October after 18 American soldiers died in battle with Somali militia in Mogadishu.

The battle also brought Americans the shocking image of a captured U.S. helicopter pilot being interrogated by

"I regret that we had to lose lives to do what we came to do," said Captain Mark A. Kromer, 27, one of those leaving aboard the boat.

Capt. Kromer, who is returning to his post at Fort Riley, Kansas, is one of tens of thousands of servicemen and women who have served in Somalia since Americans first arrived on Dec. 9, 1992. At the peak of the deployment, in January 1993, more than 20,000 were in the country.

Their mission was to open supply routes and get food past bandits and militia to the millions of people starving in the southern half of the country, where more than 350,000 people had died of hunger, disease and warfare the preceding year.

The United States turned the mission over to the United Nations last May. A month later, the operation turned into a small-scale war when 24 Pakistani peacekeepers were killed by Somali gunmen in a series of ambushes.

Forty Americans were killed in combat or accidents. The last seven died last week when their AC-130H aerial gunship crashed off the coast of Kenya.

Perhaps as a hint of what is to come, a two-storey villa housing some of the 311 Nepalese peacekeepers in Mogadishu was attacked before dawn by a barrage of three rocket-propelled grenades.

No peacekeepers were hurt, but a Somali guard was critically injured.

A Nepalese spokesman said the contingent had received a written threat of retribution unless it released four Somalis it had arrested earlier in the week for pointing a weapon at a guard at a checkpoint.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Outgoing WHO representative praises NHF development work

AMMAN (J.T.) — World Health Organisation (WHO) representative in Jordan Abdul Majed Abdul Hadi Sunday praised the success of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in its efforts to bring about comprehensive and sustainable development in Jordan, according to an NHF statement Sunday.

"Noor Al Hussein Foundation is playing the exact role needed to bring about social and economic development and... its experiment in (this field) is a source of pride for us all," Dr. Abdul Hadi said during

ing a farewell visit he made to NHF on the occasion of the end of his term of duty in Jordan.

Imam Mufti, Her Majesty Queen Noor's adviser on development, planning and international relations for NHF, expressed appreciation for WHO's efforts in support of the development process in the Mediterranean area, the statement said.

Mrs. Mufti thanked Dr. Abdul Hadi for the important role he played in enlisting support for NHF's experiment in (this field), which is implemented

in 12 villages across the Kingdom.

In appreciation of the success the project has achieved in improving the overall quality of life of underprivileged rural and urban communities in the country, WHO recently recognised Jordan as a regional training centre in integrated development for the Mediterranean area, the statement said.

Dr. Abdul Hadi praised the Quality of Life Project as an example of the results that hard work and perseverance can achieve.

U.S. senators' spouses start tour of QAF project

AMMAN (J.T.) — At the invitation of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, a delegation of wives of U.S. senators Sunday started an official one-week visit to Jordan, according to a statement by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

During the visit, the delegation will be introduced to Jordanian life and its main economic and social development issues, said the statement.

The delegates, according to QAF, have a specific interest in learning about the concerns of Jordanian women in various sectors of society and aim to explore with them possibilities

of increased interaction and cooperation between American and Jordanian individuals and institutions.

The delegation's itinerary includes visits to several projects established by QAF in needy urban areas across the country.

In line with the interests of the delegation, a focus of these visits will be on QAF's educational and income-generating projects for women which include rug-weaving, food-processing, rural markets and revival of ancient pottery.

According to QAF, part of the fund's social and economic development strategy is to help people help themselves by be-

coming more economically independent and to encourage women to become more active in their communities.

During the visit, the delegation will meet with women, children and local groups who are benefiting from QAF projects through more than 40 community development centres. The group will also visit some Jordanian historic sites.

The delegates will attend and participate in a portion of the meeting of the permanent representatives of the General Union of Arab Women which is being conducted in Amman from March 22 until March 23, under the patronage of Princess Basma.

Kingdom's water-related experiments to be presented at Hague meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in an international conference on water and sanitation at the Hague and present the Kingdom's water-related experiments and problems to the meeting, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ahmad Akaleh.

Speaking before his departure at the head of a Jordanian delegation to the March 22-23 conference in Holland, Mr. Akaleh said he would outline the numerous impediments to socio-economic development stemming from insufficient water resources, and the country's efforts to combat environmental pollution.

At the meeting, the Jordanian team will also put forth a draft national plan that would help the Kingdom implement resolutions and recommenda-

tions passed by the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, which urged nations to take appropriate measures to improve the quality of drinking water and their sanitation services, said the minister.

He said that the Hague meeting's recommendations would be submitted to a special United Nations-sponsored follow-up committee created by the Earth Summit for endorsement and further action.

Mr. Akaleh said the conference will also discuss enhancing international cooperation in water resources and the exchange of expertise, adding that special attention will be given to cooperation in safe methods of waste disposal.

Coinciding with the departure of the delegation, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs announced it was

preparing public awareness programmes on the need to economise on water consumption.

Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hanafi said the ministry was also studying the quality of drinking water and will present the results to the public with the assistance of the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

Appealing to Jordanian citizens to conserve water and protect water resources, he announced that on World Water Day (Tuesday), the ministry would air special programmes on radio and television focusing on water conservation methods in domestic, agricultural and industrial uses.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptor Samer Tabbaa. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funun in Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Writers Do Draw" by Jamal Naji, Ibrahim Nasrallah, and Farouq Wadi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Qader Azzour and Aoun Al Droubi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Turki Abdulkarim at the Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by artist Amer Mohammad Rashad entitled "A Thousand and One Nights" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by artists Iman Khalifeh and Hamed Rashed at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by artist Shawkat Al Rubaiyat at the Orfali Art Gallery in Um Utheina (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Book exhibition at the Safeway International.
- ★ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

FILM

- ★ Film in French entitled "Ripoux Contre Ripoux" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "The Orientalism Debate" by Dr. L. Carl Brown, professor of foreign affairs at Princeton University, at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture entitled "The Eastern Question Revisited: Modern Middle East Diplomacy in Historical Perspective" by Dr. L. Carl Brown at the Strategic Studies Centre at the University of Jordan at 12:30 p.m.
- ★ The Annual Award Lecture for 1994 entitled "Twelve Years of Research in Jordan" by the recipient Architect Jacques Seigne, Acting Director of the French Institute (IFAPO). An exhibition about the French restoration work on the South Gate of Jerash will accompany the lecture. The Award will be presented and a reception in his honour will follow at the Friends of Archaeology headquarters at 7:00 p.m.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- ★ Roundtable discussion entitled "The United States and the Arab-Israeli Conflict" by Dr. L. Carl Brown at Al Urdan al Jadid Research Centre in Jabal Luweibdeh at 10:00 a.m.

Jordan's newest and largest art gallery to open with display of 80 artists' works

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Princess Wijdan Ali is inaugurating a new art gallery that opens in the capital Tuesday, and where 80 artists (40 Jordanians and 40 Iraqis) will have their works on display.

The gallery, owned by Shamil Kubba, an architect, archaeologist and artist himself, is the largest in the Kingdom, covering 350 square metres in Wadi Saqra.

What prompted Dr. Kubba

to open yet another gallery in Amman is that "Jordan is becoming a major cultural centre in the Arab World." This, and the fact that the gallery is a privately-owned establishment, thus "filling an important gap in the cultural world of the capital," seemed to be reason enough for the Iraqi-born Macenas to establish his gallery.

The aim is "to encourage and help local artists and expose them to the outside." Dr. Kubba also hopes to be

able to organise exhibitions abroad and help the artists by "organising things for them through communicating with other galleries."

The Ain Gallery, as it is called, has a counterpart in Ain Baghdad, in the Iraqi capital, where Dr. Kubba is also the proprietor.

The intention is to make the Ain Gallery "one of the top three galleries in the Kingdom, on par with Abdul Hameed Shoman's Darat Al Funun and the National Art

Gallery." It will have a permanent section where the "average working individual can afford purchasing the art works." This, Dr. Kubba hopes, will be done by "trying to keep high quality art at down-to-earth prices," a thing that will also "allow people to increase their aesthetic awareness."

The works to be chosen for display will be selected by a "consultancy board which would meet to discuss the

standard of applications of the artists who want to exhibit." The board will be made up of "top local and Arab" artists invited for that purpose.

Among those exhibiting at the inauguration are well-known names like Aziz Amoura, Khalid Khreti, Ahmad Nawash, Rafiq Lahham, Mohammad Durrar, among Jordanians, and Shakher Hassan and Ala' Bashir.

The exhibition will continue until April 22.

Italian textile experts see high potential for contribution to Jordanian production

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a growing economy like Jordan's, the textile industry is one of the key areas with a high potential for contribution to increased domestic production as well as exports, according to Italian experts.

Furthermore, Jordan also holds out promises of being a bridge to other regional markets, they said, adding that this was one of the major considerations behind Italy's interest in increasing general economic cooperation with the Kingdom.

Speaking to the Jordan Times on the fringes of a one-day seminar on Italian technology in the textile industry, Fiorella Corazzini, director of the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade, said Italy wanted to build economic ties with Jordan on a reciprocal basis.

"Unless you develop your partners' ability to produce and export to yourself and others, the relationship will not be balanced," said Ms. Corazzini, noting that Jordanian-Italian trade was

heavily in favour of the latter.

Furthermore, the progress in the Middle East peace process has given an added importance to Jordan in the context of regional trade since it could serve as a bridge to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, she said.

Giovanni Rusconi, a senior official of the Italian Association of Textile Machinery Producers (Associazione Costruttori Italiani di Macchine Per l'Industria Tessile — ACIMIT), said there was a growing interest in the Jordanian private sector to develop the Kingdom's textile industry, an area which could offer not only high-turnover contribution to the gross domestic product but also employment chances and utilisation of local resources.

Italy is the fourth largest trade partner with Jordan, after Iraq, the United States and Germany, but is the first-ranking exporter of textile machinery to the Kingdom.

Jordan's import of Italian textile machinery, mostly in the area of spinning and finishing, rose from \$1 million in 1992 to \$4 million in 1993.

Dr. Rusconi said that during Sunday's seminar, he received a surprisingly high number of inquiries related to the knitting side of the industry. "This is another sign of the growing interest of Jordan in the industry," he said.

Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf, in an address to the seminar, emphasised the warmth in overall Jordanian-Italian relations as one of the most encouraging factors for both sides to increase cooperation.

The geographic proximity between Jordan and Italy should be complemented with close economic relationships in terms of trade and joint industrial ventures, she said.

Ms. Khalaf said Jordan attached high importance to the industrial sector and that the seminar was one of the forums which could provide excellent opportunities for Jordanians to familiarise themselves with advances in the industry and explore possibilities of ventures in the field as well as expansion.

Khaloud Abu Hassan, chairman of the Chamber of

Industry, also referred to Jordanian-Italian relations in industry and noted that there were several joint ventures now operating in Jordan. He expressed hope that more of the same would be developed in Jordan, particularly through forums like Sunday's seminar, which brought in more than 100 Jordanian participants.

Jordan produced 1,037 million metres of textiles and spun 1.51 tonnes of yarn during 1992. No figures were available on ready-made garment production.

Clothes and textiles are given a 1.6 per cent share in Jordan's industrial production index. The index, set on 100 and based on 1979 production, rose from 118.9 points to 128.5 points in 1993 — a nine per cent growth.

Jordan is exempt from the textile export quotas that many Western countries have set. As such, other countries with high production capacities but with limited export quotas could take advantage of the Kingdom's status to expand their exports.

But the full potential that the Kingdom offers to textile and ready-made garment producers and exporters has not been fully exploited, businesspersons say.

Crime prevention workshop focuses on developing world

By Rana Hussein Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A regional preparatory meeting in advance of the 1995 Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders Sunday opened with discussions on "ways to pay special attention to new modalities and initiatives to strengthen technical cooperation, including ways and means of increasing support for the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the United Nations regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, particularly those located in the developing world."

crime, including juvenile crime and violence; and victims' concerns.

Kurk Neudek, deputy chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch at UNOV, praised the West Asian region for its comparatively low incidence of crime.

"Within the framework of Islamic principles, placing emphasis on community mediation and conflict resolution for social problems, and imbuing and transmitting its ethics and values to its young, Islamic society safeguards itself from crime and its resultant adversities," Mr. Neudek said.

Mr. Hammad gave a brief outline of Jordan's achievements in the area of crime prevention, focusing on the role of human rights.

"We live in the state of institutions" and the rule of law," he said. "We have a modern penal institution and we have leading experience in this regard in the region. Prisons have become rehabilitation centres with the necessary elements to guarantee all the rights of those who live in them.

"These centres comprise handicraft workshops offering the resident a chance to learn any job he chooses while being paid, which will help him live in dignity after the completion of his sentence," Mr. Hammad

Some of the participants suggested considering other important issues to be presented in the 1995 conference.

Major General Mohammad Boul, assistant general director of the Public Security Department who was elected chairman of the five-day workshop, stressed the importance of balancing crime prevention with respect for human rights, women and children as victims of crime, the need to address the cause that lead to criminal behaviour in addition to the symptoms, the role of criminal law in protecting the environment, and the necessity of improving international cooperation to prevent organised crime of an economic and non-political nature, rather than focusing solely on politically-oriented organised crime.

It is time for Western Asia to consolidate its needs, priorities and concerns in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and to identify possible courses of action within the context of its unique perspective."

The first day discussions included tackling topics regarding international cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law, promoting the united nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, mass media and crime prevention, and exchanging views and suggesting new ideas.

Ms. Khader added that women and children are the victims of their own society, especially the ones that reside in poor sections.

"The poorer the children and women were, the better are the chances that they will be abused by their surrounding society," she said.

Ms. Khader, a lawyer, said the only way to protect this group of people is by estab-

lishing awareness programmes and educating them.

Among the issues discussed were the importance of balancing crime prevention with respect for human rights, women and children as victims of crime, the need to address the cause that lead to criminal behaviour in addition to the symptoms, the role of criminal law in protecting the environment, national experiences and international cooperation, extradition and environmental protection at national and international levels.

During the opening session, participants also elected as vice-chairman of the meeting Saudi Arabia's Abdulrahim Al Ghazi, the assistant director of the Arab Centre for Security and Training Research; and as rapporteur Egypt's Wahid Jallal, the consul at the Egyptian Embassy in Amman.

AL-ISRA UNIVERSITY

The Department of Continuing Education and Community Development Of AL - ISRA University announces The holding of the following training programmes in :

- Arab and Islamic Culture (In English). From 9th April - 18th May 1994, for 24 hours, Mon. and Wed., 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Fees JD 60.
- Teaching Arabic to non-native speakers. From 26 Mar. - 15th June 1994 , for 48 hours, four hours per week, Mon., and Wed., 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Fees JD 100.
- Teaching German Language. From 16th April - 17 May 1994, for 28 hours, six hours per week, Sat., Mon., and Wed., 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Fees JD 40.

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Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1994

Jordan Times

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Bureaucracy not for education

THE MOVE by the government to replace the Ministry of Higher Education with a Council for Higher Education is a welcome development. But replacing one bureaucratic body with another is in itself not enough. The government, on the other hand, says it will "amend" the legislation pertaining to higher education, which can only make sense. But judging by past experiences we fear the new legislation might not be more progressive than the old one, leaving us with a greater problem at hand.

We do appreciate the government's concern to protect and maintain the standard of education and the quality of university graduates, but our own experiences have taught us that government intervention, whether in the economy, agriculture, the services, trade or other fields, can be counterproductive and often is. At a time when higher education in particular needs to be liberalised, rather than controlled, the bureaucracy can do more harm than good if it is allowed a free rein.

Prospects of low quality output of graduates need not worry the concerned people. The market is capable of taking care of this. Employers are always capable of recruiting the best graduates. Good and poor institutions soon establish their reputation as such. Universities especially should be allowed to decide on their own criteria for admission, their own fees for enrollment and their own curricula for teaching. Regulating these aspects of higher education leads to limitations that hinder the process of learning and scientific progress. Furthermore, since the government intends to allow for the establishment of boards of trustees for state-run universities and since private universities have their own boards, there is no need for the establishment of a higher council. What is needed perhaps is a body that would include representatives from boards of various universities and act only as an advisory body.

At this juncture in our history when we strive to liberalise politics and the economy it must be recognised that freeing education from bureaucratic chains is a prerequisite for our development and progress.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AFTER HARD labour, the U.N. Security Council has finally delivered Resolution 904 which, of course, will be added to resolutions 242, 338 and 425 but would not yield any fruit, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Sunday. It is regrettable to see the Arab states involved in the peace process considering the new resolution as a victory for the Arabs and conducive to peace, prompting them to decide to return to the negotiating table with Israel, said Ahmad Al Misheh. There is no doubt that the PLO, which has been adamant in its demand that the Palestinians get protection in the face of further atrocities, would also follow the example of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon and decide to return to the talks, said the writer. Indeed, he said, Yitzhak Rabin has succeeded in circumventing the Hebron massacre and containing Arab wrath and has secured the Arab countries' return to the talks which are achieving nothing for the Arabs and everything for the Israelis. However, he said, neither the resolution nor the Arab countries' decision to return to the talks have succeeded in reducing the level of violence inside the Arab lands occupied by the Israeli forces and Israeli settlers. On the contrary, Israeli repression is increasing in intensity and it is impossible for the Jews and Arabs to co-exist, added the writer. He said that the Arabs seem to have forgotten the massacre and are back in business as normal, dealing with the Israelis and the coming American delegations and turning a blind eye to the continued plights of their kinsmen in Palestine, said the writer.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour criticised the showing of "The Terrorist", a movie which, he said can only encourage acts of terrorism and harm the image of Islam. Jordan has no interest in peddling terrorism and should ban the film in the cinemas, lest it would reflect a distorted image about the Islamic faith, demanded Mohammad Subehi. Describing the film as a cheap production aiming to hurt the feelings of the faithful, the writer said that the scenes depict immoral behaviour as well as terrorist practices which are unjustly attributed to the Muslims. The writer said that such a movie was not produced for the Jordanian society which fights extremism and advocates national unity and pluralism, and therefore it would harm the minds of the young he pointed out. The writer said that the film producer has obviously failed to see that this film would by no means curb acts of terrorism but on the contrary would prompt religious people to sympathise with these elements conducting acts considered as extreme and outrageous in reaction to repression and injustice.

Whitewater impact on the 1994 elections

By Dr. James Zogby

With the Whitewater controversy still growing in scope, U.S. President Bill Clinton's 1994 legislative and electoral agenda appears to be facing serious problems.

Initially, Whitewater was about nothing more than a failed Arkansas land deal in which the Clintons were investors. As I noted in a recent column, Whitewater was initially a complicated affair, involving a possible conflict of interest and a question of unpaid taxes. But with the way White House staffers have (mis)handled the issue, it has grown to include questions of White House meddling in a federal investigation and charges that there is an attempted "cover-up" of Clinton's wrong-doings.

With the Senate voting this week to hold hearings on Whitewater and with a procession of top Mr. Clinton aides being called before a grand jury, the Clinton administration is seeing the minor Arkansas affair grow into a major national scandal that threatens the ability of the president to frame the national debate — which is especially dangerous in this congressional election year.

In this context, the first victim of Whitewater appears to be the bipartisan spirit that was beginning to emerge at the end of 1993. It was strong Republican support that produced the majority of votes for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the president's anti-crime bill. These victories gave Mr. Clinton a boost in the public opinion polls, which he hoped would carry him to victory in the two major legislative battles of 1994: health care and welfare reform.

But bipartisan spirit Congress enjoyed in 1993 has disappeared in early 1994, because the November elections offer the Republicans an opportunity to win Senate and congressional seats away from the Democrats and enhance their hand in the government.

The Republicans have seized on Whitewater as an issue they can use to challenge the president, they have issued daily calls for congressional hearings and accused the White House of impropriety. In many ways, this Republican challenge is similar to what the Democ-

M. KAHL

I TOLD THE TRUTH...



I TOLD THE TRUTH...



I TOLD THE TRUTH...



controlled legislators did to the Reagan and Bush administrations.

The Democrats are under pressure and have responded to the Republicans with attacks of their own. Last weekend at the meeting of the Democratic National Committee, Democratic leaders charged that Republicans were pressing Whitewater for partisan political reasons in an effort to weaken the president. The Democrats further called into question the ethics of each of the Republican leaders who are attacking the president.

The acrimony that all this has produced seriously threatens the ability of the White House to move its legislative agenda forward. In this charged atmosphere it is unlikely that the president can create the bipartisan coalition he needs to pass his program.

Given that 1994 is an election year and that partisan tensions were bound to erupt, it was necessary for the president to move his agenda early in the year. Each week lost to Whitewater moves the country that much closer to the November elections and makes it less likely the Republicans

will support a Democratic initiative; or that the president will be able to create the public support and momentum necessary to convince conservative Democrats to make the hard of decisions to vote for his very complex health care bill and pass his very tough welfare reform package.

There is a tragedy in all of this former Senator Barry Goldwater, a leading Republicans (because he was the party's 1964 presidential nominee and the ideological leader who is credited with laying the ground for Ronald Reagan's election in 1980), this week urged the Republicans to "get off the president's back" and said that "needs of the country are greater than either the Republican or Democratic party."

Even without Whitewater, however, the November elections were going to be hotly contested. A great deal is at stake.

Since the end of World War II, which marks the beginning of the modern era of American politics, the average mid-term election costs the president's party 23 seats in the House of Representatives and three Senate seats. This year, however,

there is reason to believe that the Democrats may do even worse than the average, so both parties are working exceptionally hard.

First, the anti-incumbent mood which brought so many new faces to Washington in 1992 is still very strong. And while Ross Perot's star has dimmed, the issues he raised and the anger he stirred against "those folks in Washington" is still quite present. The term-limits movement, which calls for laws to limit the number of years a politician could remain in office, is another sign of the anti-incumbent sentiment and is gaining momentum — even Democratic Speaker of the House Tom Foley is involved in a lawsuit against a term limit law passed by his state. Given all this, with 110 new members in 1992 and already 40 retirements announced this year, there is a possibility that half the next congress could be new since Mr. Clinton's election just two years ago — an unprecedented change.

An even bigger factor in the simple fact that the Democrats have more to lose. Of the 34 Senate seats up for reelection this year, the Democrats must

defend 21 of them. Political analysts have identified seven seats which seem to be in particular jeopardy, and six of them belong to Democrats. Of course, March is a long way from November, but there is a strong possibility that the Republicans stand to gain three seats in the senate when the new class is sworn in 1995.

In the House of Representatives, many Democrats are sitting in a very precarious position, having survived in 1992 largely because former U.S. President George Bush performed so poorly at the top of the Republican ticket. The redistricting process of 1990 had been expected to bring 30-40 new Republicans to the House of Representatives.

If the Republicans do score major gains this November, they could make the remaining two years of Mr. Clinton's term very difficult. As it is now, the president cannot bring in all the Democrats to vote for his proposals, but things could be considerably worse. Specifically, although even a five-seat gain in the Senate would leave the Republicans in a 49-51 minority, but Senator Richard Shelby, a Democrat from Alabama,

votes with the Republicans far more often than he votes with the Democrats — and he is seldom alone. In House the loss of any seat threatens the ability of the Democrats to move legislation, because the Democrats' large (257-176 majority) is in fact much smaller because the left and right wings of the party are so far apart that they seldom vote together.

But though past and recent history paint a gloomy picture for the Democrats, there are some encouraging signs. The polls are now showing a surprising swing to the Democratic Party. This move is predominantly because most of the pressing issues on the public's agenda now are issues on which Democrats have traditionally scored well: health care, education, job creation and creating political change. A majority of the public even has more confidence that the Democrats will handle welfare reform better than the Republicans — which is a significant shift from just a few years ago. The only two issues (out of 12) on which the Republicans score better than the Democrats on an important issue.

Democrats might even be able to capitalise on the anti-incumbent sentiment because they are the party most identified with "change" — the issue that was the battlecry of Ross Perot and his legion of voters in 1992. Also in Democrats' favour is the fact that the economy is in good shape and voter tend to give the president and his party credit for a good economy. Further, Mr. Clinton's chief spokesman — has been hitting the key issues of the day (the deficit, health care, crime and welfare reform) in a very visible way for the past two years.

It is only March and the November elections are eight months away, but already there are a series of fascinating political stories developing across the U.S. Winter isn't over yet, but it's already getting hot.

The writer is President of the Washington-based Arab-American Institute.

New hopes, old suspicions in Syrian view of Israel

By G.G. Labelle
The Associated Press

and finding a way into the modern world of technology and trade.

"The global village is really very close: You can touch it, and we have to be in it," said Mohammad Al Imady, Syria's U.S.-educated economy minister.

Much has changed since Syria sided with the U.S.-led coalition over three years ago in the Gulf war against Iraq and agreed a year later to talk peace with Israel.

"They are the Israelis, still the enemy but no longer stereotyped as a people who are unanimous in detesting Arabs and hating for their Israelites.

"We" may be a young woman studying law in Damascus or a soldier in his mid-30s in a Golan Heights village once destroyed by Israel.

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They are the Israelis, still the enemy but no longer stereotyped as a people who are unanimous in detesting Arabs

King: U.N. resolution was mishandled

(Continued from page 1)

protection for the Palestinian people under occupation.

The committee issued a statement voicing pride in and appreciation for King Hussein's courageous stand and his efforts to formulate a united and active Arab position.

The committee expressed satisfaction with the position of the 14 members of the U.N. Security Council who condemned the massacre and called for providing international protection for the Palestinian

people. The committee members earlier met with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and discussed with him the U.N. Security Council resolution on the massacre.

Mr. Hassan reviewed the government's position towards the resolution and explained Jordan's moves and efforts prior to and after passing the resolution. He also reviewed the committee on the government's contacts with senior French officials to reconsider France's latest decision on entry visas for Jordanians wishing to visit France.

Arafat, Peres may meet in Paris

(Continued from page 1)

out the (Jewish) settlers' status in the occupied Palestinian land, especially Hebron, to provide security for Palestinian people." Dr. Shaath told reporters in Cairo before heading for the Tunis meeting.

"This will include disarming settlers, the behaviour of the Israeli army, getting extremist settlers out of the Hebron area, agreeing on the form of international protection to be provided in Hebron and the deployment of the Palestinian

"Change cannot come by this or that step... but by basing the implementation beyond the declaration of principles, something Israel is prepared to do," said Mr. Savir.

Cabinet ministers said the main thrust of the negotiations in Tunis was the presence of the Palestinian police in Hebron and general security measures.

"There is no doubt that today we are going to discuss two main points which are related to the security of the city of Hebron ... the presence of Palestinian police within Hebron and how much we can do to guarantee security of all," Mr. Ben-Elizer told reporters.

A Palestinian police presence in Hebron under Israeli authority was a proposal approved in principle by the cabinet, Mr. Ben-Elizer said.

The daily *Yedioth Achronot* reported that Mr. Rabin told Mr. Arafat he was willing to accept temporary deployment in Hebron of unarmed international observers, such as the Red Cross.

Palestinians have said such a proposal would not be satisfactory, it also wants Israel to dismantle the six Jewish enclaves in Hebron, housing 450 settlers among 10,000 Arabs.

Hebron residents were sceptical of the varied offers, starting with the U.N. resolution.

"What kind of resolution is that? They will send us unarmed international police to protect us from armed settlers?" said Hebron resident Jamil Abu Suafan, 65.

PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said on Sunday the Hebron massacre had created new priorities for the agenda of talks for implementing the accord.

"The Tunis talks will be about the measures to be taken by the Israeli government ab-

House urges priority for agriculture reform

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday

called for giving priority to agricultural policies and adopting a constant methodology for successive governments. During a regular House session chaired by Speaker Taher Masri, the lawmakers discussed recommendations of the Agriculture Committee and stressed the need for holding a national conference to agree on a fixed and clear-cut policy.

They also called for establishing a national farmers federation through which farmers can demand their rights and ensure that their requirements are met at the lowest price possible.

The House also called for setting up a national fund for supporting farmers affected by natural disasters and for adopting a cropping system using new methods after undertaking feasibility studies.

The House also listened to answers by the ministers concerned on questions raised by several House members. The questions dealt with the international conference held recently

at the late King Abdullah's Mosque. The minister of Awqaf said the meeting was held within the framework of Muslim-Christian dialogue. The agriculture minister answered a question about Al Fujair station, which produces milk and other dairy products, in addition to livestock. The minister said the station will be used as a centre for counselling on animal wealth.

Responding to a question why the name of Al Rabah castle was changed to Ajloun Castle, the education minister said the move came in accordance with findings of historical resource books and university reports. The health minister, answering a question put to him by Deputy Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, said an amendment to the 1985 public health law did not give the ministry any authority to fix doctors fees.

Mr. Rawabdeh criticised the ministry's policy and called for enacting legislation fixing doctors fees, similar to the legislation the ministry enacted to fix prices of medicine.

Norwegian-mediated plan could be key

(Continued from page 1)

drawal a week after the resumption of negotiations, prior to the signing of a detailed self-rule plan for Palestinians.

The Norwegian proposals are an attempt to find a middle ground between a Palestinian plan that was presented to Israel and the U.S. last week, and the Israeli response to that plan.

The original paper, as PLO officials describe it, consisted of three major points:

— A ban on armed Israeli settlers from going into Arab towns and populated areas.

— The immediate evacuation of settlers from the centre of Hebron.

— A combination of a United Nations (civilian or military) presence and Palestinian police force in Hebron.

Palestinian officials say that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini had discussed the Norwegian initiative as well as modifications introduced by both Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin. The

officials say that Israel has not rejected the Norwegian ideas, but that Mr. Peres seems to have a different idea on how to implement them.

In public statements, Mr. Peres said that the Palestinian police force will have more authority than the one that previously operated under Israeli jurisdiction; its members collectively resigned after the intifada began in 1987.

In Tunis, Palestinian reluctance to resume the talks has been further reinforced by a lack of practical steps taken to defuse the tension in Hebron and the U.S. abstention on two clauses of the U.N. Security Council resolution passed last Friday.

The PLO leadership fears that the U.S. vote signalled a serious departure from declared U.S. policies, which have always regarded the West Bank and Gaza Strip as occupied territories and have never recognised the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem.

The U.S. position seems to be drawing closer to that of Israel, which refuses to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention. The convention stipulates that occupying powers secure protection for people under their occupation and ban any changes in the national identity of the occupied land.

The Israeli official argument has been that the Geneva Convention is inapplicable to the West Bank and Gaza since these are "disputed" rather than "occupied" territories."

"If the U.S. and Israel want to impose this interpretation as the basis for the negotiations, this will prejudice the final outcome of the negotiations," said a senior PLO official.

Mr. Arafat was expected to ask for clarifications on the American position from the State Department special coordinator on the Middle East peace process, Dennis Ross, who was expected to attend the Israeli-Palestinian meetings.

U.S. sends Ross to Tunis

(Continued from page 1)

criticised the U.N. resolution for not spelling out what was needed to protect the Palestinians.

In Syria, four Palestinian groups — members of a Damascus-based alliance of 10 hardline Palestinian factions resolved to destroy the peace process — said the resolution was "insufficient" to protect the Palestinians and accused the United States of siding with Israel.

"The Tunis talks will be about the measures to be taken by the Israeli government ab-

The right to life and the Hashimeyeh water

By Dr. Waleed Saad

OF ALL the human rights, including the human right for democracy, the right to life comes ahead. So when Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas threw out at us few weeks ago his bomb shell about the state of food and medicine in the country, most of the people applauded the courage and integrity that was behind the shocking revelation. Not much has been heard lately about what corrective measures have been taken in that vein with the exception of bits and pieces about some measures that were contemplated to improve control on the food we eat and the drugs we take.

The storm created by Dr. Malhas has since died out for all intents and purposes without any assurances that the problem has been tackled. Dr. Malhas owes it to all of us who became agitated at the thought of being fed contaminated or expired foods or treated with false medicines.

The best evidence that the country is not taking seriously the issues raised by Dr. Malhas last month is the discovery that in Al Hashimeyeh district of the Zarka area, contaminated

water is still being pumped out of a stream of raw sewage to irrigate farm produce. The smell coming out of this stream is so awful that it is amazing that Dr. Malhas has not even noticed the problem till now. How is it possible that water polluted by raw sewage can still be used in a civilised country as ours to irrigate agricultural products at a time when we seek to address the expiry date of food staples and drugs. When I checked the source and destination of this terrible mess, I was told by local farmers that the water comes from Kherbet Al Samra and flows unimpeded to the Ghor area. Only God knows where this dangerously polluted water ends up, although some suggest that the highly polluted water feeds King Talal Dam. With all fairness this is an old problem that dates back to several years. I was also informed that now and then the authorities destroy the crops watered by this

stream but the farmers go back and cultivate their lands as if unimpeded by state action.

What is the sense then of talking about expired medicines and food when this outrageous problem goes under our own eyes. How many times do we have to sound the alarm about the continued misuse of pesticides and insecticides in Jordanian agriculture, not to mention the heavily contaminated water for irrigation purposes.

Muslim Rights File

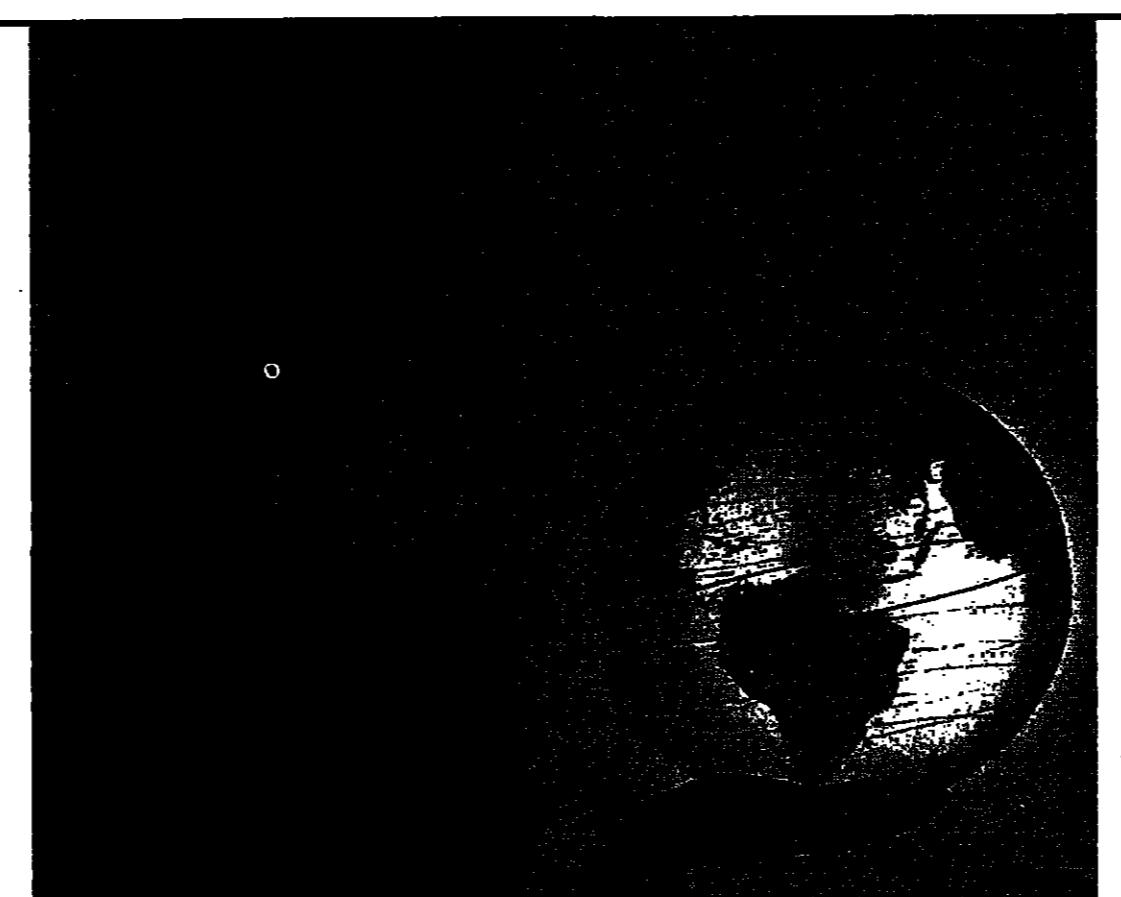
The right to life means the protection of life from such persistent violations of basic health norms. The minister of health has started the disclosures about shortcomings in our society and he is called upon to finish the job. I respectfully call on him to visit the Hashimeyeh area and see for himself how the health of Jordanian is being flouted. Before taking up the cause of medicines and imported food stuffs let us first clean up our domestic food production from obvious and brazen threats.

There are so many simple violations that are hardly attracting attention. For example, the prepared food stuffs that are being sold to

people by street vendors are not even covered up from flies and dust. Why can't the Ministry of Health do this simple task by outlawing and preventing such dangerously contaminated food or sweets from being sold and bought on the streets in a manner that contradicts the basic norms of hygiene.

And why the Ministry of Health still turns a blind eye to the government's law against smoking in public places. Has the minister of health visited the so-called Palace of Justice for example to see for himself the problem of smoking in public places. One can go on and on remunerating the cases of health hazards in the Kingdom that have yet to attract the eyes and attention of the concerned ministries.

Dr. Malhas has started his campaign in the country. All of us who supported him in his earlier crusade want him to finish the job by first tackling the domestic scene and fighting contaminated water and the abuse of pesticides and insecticides. Above all, we would like him to visit Al Hashimeyeh area and see for himself the extent of the problem caused by raw sewage being used for irrigating agricultural produce.



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Japan defends other Asian nations on financial moves

APEC ministers seek \$1 trillion to fund growth

HONOLULU (R) — Pacific rim finance ministers launched a concerted campaign Saturday to raise the \$1 trillion in financing they'll need in the coming decade to ensure the region's continued economic success.

In a three-page statement issued after their first ever meeting, the 18 finance ministers called on business leaders and international financial institutions to work with them to find the money that's needed for everything from roads to telecommunications networks.

"We want a concerted effort," U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen told reporters after two days of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum talks. "We're talking about \$1 trillion in infrastructure projects over the next decade."

Mr. Bentsen glossed over disputes between the United States, Japan and China that threaten to undermine the region's stability, saying he was optimistic they could be solved without saying how that would be done.

Washington and Tokyo are deadlocked over how to reduce Japan's huge \$130-billion annual trade surplus, while the United States and China are at loggerheads over America's demands that Beijing correct alleged human rights abuses and improve its treatment of its own citizens.

APEC member countries have enjoyed phenomenal economic success in recent years and are among the fastest growing nations in the world, but the rapid growth has strained the capacity of many to cope, resulting in polluted

cities, clogged streets and jammed telephone lines.

The ministers acknowledged that they face a "formidable challenge" in raising the finance that's needed as even the large pools of savings that many of their nations enjoy won't be enough to do the trick.

"Large and growing inflows from external sources ... will continue to be crucial," the ministers said in their statement.

To help tackle the problem, the APEC ministers commissioned the International Monetary Fund to prepare a study of cross-border capital flows throughout the region and called on the Asian Development Bank to host a symposium to study the financing of

their financial markets to fore-

Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

Mr. Bentsen said they all agreed on the importance of privatisation, deregulation, trade liberalisation and closer economic ties for the continued economic success of the region.

To help achieve that end, the APEC ministers spelled out five principles to guide their economic policies in the future.

Those principles are: Pursuit of sound budgetary and interest rate policies to keep inflation down, promotion of increased trade and investment links, continued reliance on the private sector as the main engine of growth, further development of capital markets and strengthened efforts to attract and make use of outside financing.

The ministers apparently managed for the most part to steer clear of the contentious issue of how quickly to open Asian financial markets to more competition, especially from the United States.

Washington argues that more open markets would improve the chances of Asian nations for raising the finances they'll need in the coming decade to fund economic development.

But for now, the United States seemed content to settle for further study of the issue by APEC, that though could change next year when the finance ministers meet again in Indonesia.

Japan came to defence of its fellow Asian nations Saturday in their battle to resist U.S. calls for a faster opening of

their financial markets to foreign competition.

"Regulation and supervision of the financial markets should be eased gradually in line with the market's development," Japanese Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii told reporters following an economic meeting of Pacific rim nations here.

The United States has made no secret of its desire that Asian nations, including Japan, move more quickly to open their financial markets to competition, although it did not particularly press the point at the two-day ministerial meeting that ended Saturday.

"Nobody would disagree that more liberalisation of Asian financial markets is necessary, but that must be carried out at such a pace that would not disrupt the economic stability of the region," said a top official at Japan's ministry of finance (MOF), who declined to be named.

"Japan's post war economic growth was made possible due to regulations and protective measures, such as interest rate controls and concentrated investment in priority industries," he added. "It was only in the 1970's when those regulations became an obstacle to further growth that Japan started to remove them for greater market efficiency."

Asian officials argue that overly rapid liberalisation of their financial markets would undermine their economies and leave their banks and brokers easy prey to tough foreign competition, especially from the United States.

"The high rate of domestic savings has been a locomotive behind Japan's growth," the MOF official said.

not fair for them to have to compete with adults," said a senior Chinese official, who declined to be named.

"The United States is trying to push very hard to ask developing members of APEC to open their financial markets. It's not a matter of right or wrong. It's the matter of how fast and how far," he said.

Reflecting those concerns, finance ministers of the APEC forum ended their meeting with a statement that contained only a vague reference to financial market development.

"We agree that further development of capital markets is needed for effective mobilisation and allocation of private/business capital," the statement said.

The ministers also agreed that deputy finance ministers and their central bank counterparts will meet jointly in late 1994 or early 1995 to conduct research on financial market regulation and supervision.

For its part, Japan promised continued financial assistance to the region. The top MOF official said that would be possible because of Japan's high savings rate — a rate that has been criticised by the United States in the past as being

Twenty others held pluralist polls since winds of democratic change began blowing from eastern Europe in 1989, he added.

Washington wants Japan to save less and spend more so as to reduce its giant trade surplus, but Tokyo argues that such savings are necessary for the country's long-term economic well-being.

"The high rate of domestic savings has been a locomotive behind Japan's growth," the MOF official said.

Africans urged to end state control to spur growth

ARUSHA, Tanzania (R) — Business leaders in the world's poorest continent Sunday urged governments to cast off the shackles of state control and embrace sweeping reforms to spur growth.

"Pluralism and competition, in both the economic and political spheres, hold the key to a free and prosperous future," said Babacar Ndiaye, president of the African Development Bank (ADB).

"Adjustment can be a difficult and painful process and the benefits not immediately apparent, making it politically difficult for governments to stay the course of reforms, but reforms are the only way forward," he told Reuters.

Mr. Ndiaye, founder of the African Business Round Table (ABR), said 35 African states had implemented economic reforms which encouraged private investment, achieved sound macroeconomic management and liberalised their economies in the last decade.

Twenty others held pluralist

polls since winds of democratic change began blowing from eastern Europe in 1989, he added.

Mr. Ndiaye said countries fully committed to economic reform such as Mauritius, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and even Mozambique — one of the world's poorest states — have realised impressive rates of growth in the last few years.

The ADB estimates that to achieve an annual rate of real economic growth of four to five per cent, Africa needs some \$60 billion a year in additional resources throughout the 1990s.

The ABR said a full dia-

Kenya seeks new coffee markets

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya plans to launch an ambitious coffee export drive to win new markets in eastern Europe as part of Africa's effort to regain lost market share in world trade.

"Prices have already been badly affected over the last few weeks and there's no huge change today," a Singapore trader with a Western trading firm said.

But traders with joint ventures in huge trading positions in China feared that any protracted ban would almost certainly disrupt current trading patterns in the region.

Oil experts tend to see the ban within the larger context of communism there in 1991 African coffee exporters needed government-negotiated bilateral agreements to be able to sell to eastern European markets.

Danish oil to last 20 years, gas 45 years

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark, western Europe's third-biggest oil and gas producer, has known oil reserves which can sustain the present level of production for 20 years while gas reserves will last 45 years.

Exploration efforts were at a low in 1993 and no new reserves were found, the Danish Energy Board said in its annual report, but it said the potential for finding new reserves was very good.

Denmark produces far less oil and natural gas than Europe's two leading producers, Norway and Britain.

But the flow of Danish oil which began in 1972 and has increased sharply since the late 1980s is of major importance for the national economy.

The board said it expected Denmark to achieve balance in its energy trade in 1997, meaning that exports of oil and gas would be worth as much as imports of coal.

"The continued high oil and gas production will mean that Denmark's net energy expenditure will fall from 2.5 billion Danish crowns (\$378.5 million) in 1993 to a balance or a small surplus in 1997," the board said.

Less than 10 years ago, net energy imports burdened the Danish balance of payments on current account by an annual 20 billion crowns (\$3.03 billion).

The self-sufficiency in oil and gas has helped the country achieve balance of payments surpluses since 1990 after 25 straight years of deficits. The 1994 surplus is forecast at 23 billion crowns (\$3.48 billion).

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 21, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today finds ricocheting planetary positions which presents a mixed bag; rapid expansion of your goals in the a.m. and limitations in the afternoon where you need to remain calm for best results.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Analyse the future well so that you can put your finest talents to work. Be sure to arrive on time for an important appointment with an associate.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Concentrate on the future and then make concrete plans to improve it. Take modern treatments to improve your health for the coming week.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try a new approach with friends and reach a better understanding with them. Know what is expected of you by associates on a new project.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have to be tactful and clear thinking to patch up a problem of long standing. Take no risks with money at this time or face disaster.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can get along better with associates by adopting a new attitude. Take no chances with one who has harmed you in the past with a project.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study your duties well and figure out a way to handle them more efficiently. Don't do anything that could anger your mate at this time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Use a different approach in a civil matter and get excellent results.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make tasks the keynote in your activities today and accomplish a great deal. This is not a good day to engage in new interests of problems occur.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be extra patient in the face of any pressures today and you will win out. Strive for greater prestige in any civic matters you are involved in.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be tactful with family members and maintain harmony at home. Take no chances with a well-known troublemaker or there will be problems.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Use good judgment in the handling of problems connected with regular routines. Come to a better understanding with your mate in any situation.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your monetary prowess is better now than for some time so make the most of this now. Obtain data you need from the right sources on any endeavour.

Congo raises prices, cuts import tax

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — Congo is raising prices of fuel, electricity, transport and telephone services and cutting import duties from Monday, a government official said.

He said super-grade petrol would retail at the equivalent of 0.69 per litre, up from 0.52 and the price of a litre of diesel would rise to 0.34 per litre from 0.34.

Water, power and telephone charges would be around 20 per cent higher, urban bus fares would go up 50 per cent and taxi tariffs 40 per cent, he added.

The rises, approved by the government Saturday, are parts of an austerity programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in an effort to balance Congo's budget and win support for rescheduling its foreign debt.

They also reflect the higher cost of imported components caused by January's 50 per cent devaluation of the CFA franc, used by Congo and 12 other central and west African states.

China's oil import ban shakes confidence overseas

SINGAPORE (R) — China's temporary ban on spot oil imports has cast a shadow on the booming Asian demand which many foreign oil traders and investors had come to expect and rely on, industry sources said.

The ban, expected to last one to two months, was officially imposed on March 1 to stem mounting imports into what had become the world's biggest energy market.

"We're terribly disappointed. What other outlet can we look at?" said a Singapore trader who sells to China. "We're talking about the withdrawal of the biggest (spot) market in Asia."

Customs figures show Chinese crude oil imports soared 433 per cent in January to 480,000 tonnes compared with January 1993. Refined petroleum product imports grew 111 per cent to 660,000 tonnes.

Massive amounts of imported oil flowing into China have both drained precious hard currency reserves and dis-

placed domestic production. The problem was compounded by a rush to fill storage tanks before a new value-added tax was imposed on Jan. 1.

Since Beijing embarked on its free-market reforms, oil companies have flocked to China to secure toeholds in what could be the world's biggest energy market.

Most have a long-term view but admit there was cause for concern over arbitrary and confusing policy changes in the country of more than 1.1 billion people.

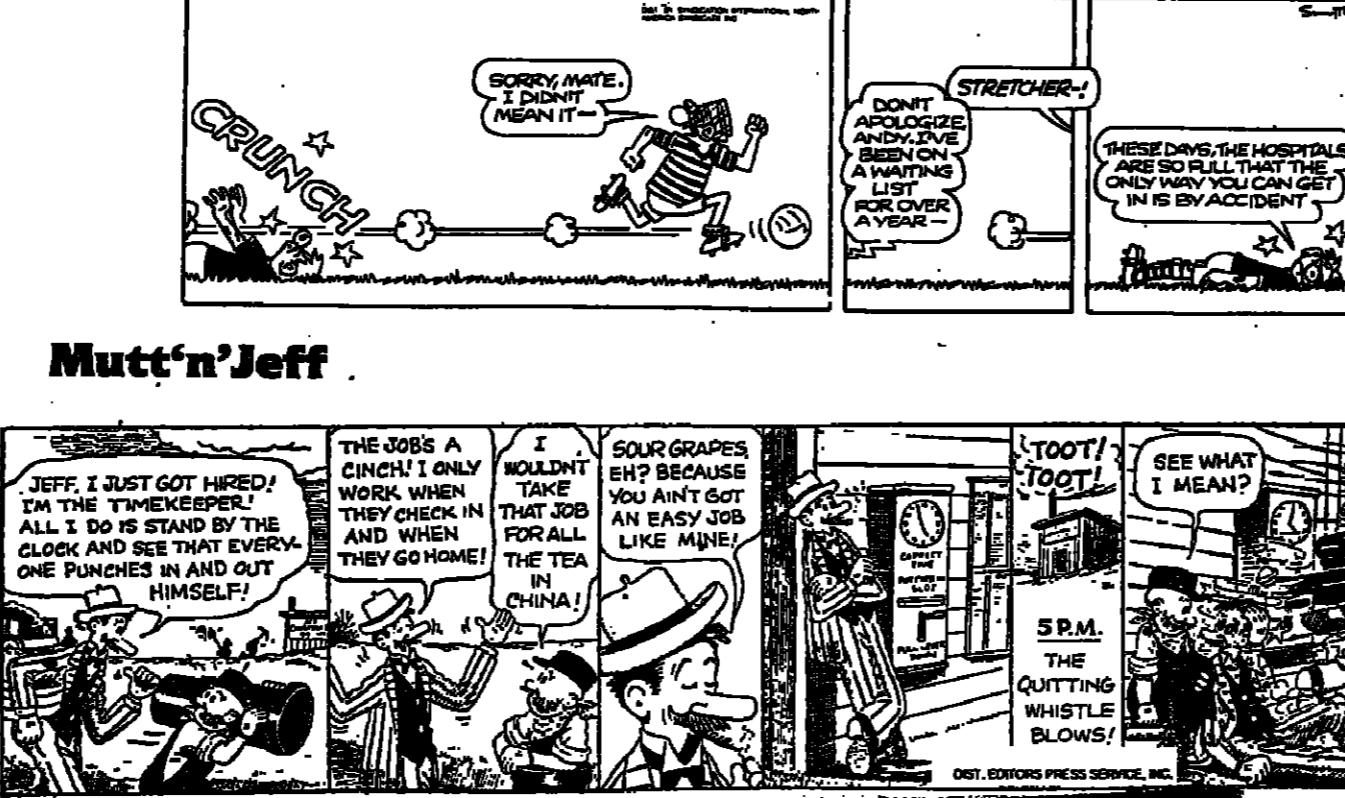
Some expressed fears Beijing's move would shake the hard-gained confidence of foreign investors.

"What's going to happen to all those joint-venture refineries which need to use imported crude, or companies with agreements to build land tanks?" asked a trader whose company had storage facilities in China.

Well-known names like Royal Dutch/Shell, Total, ELF, Vitol, Total, Louis Dreyfus and state Saudi Aram-



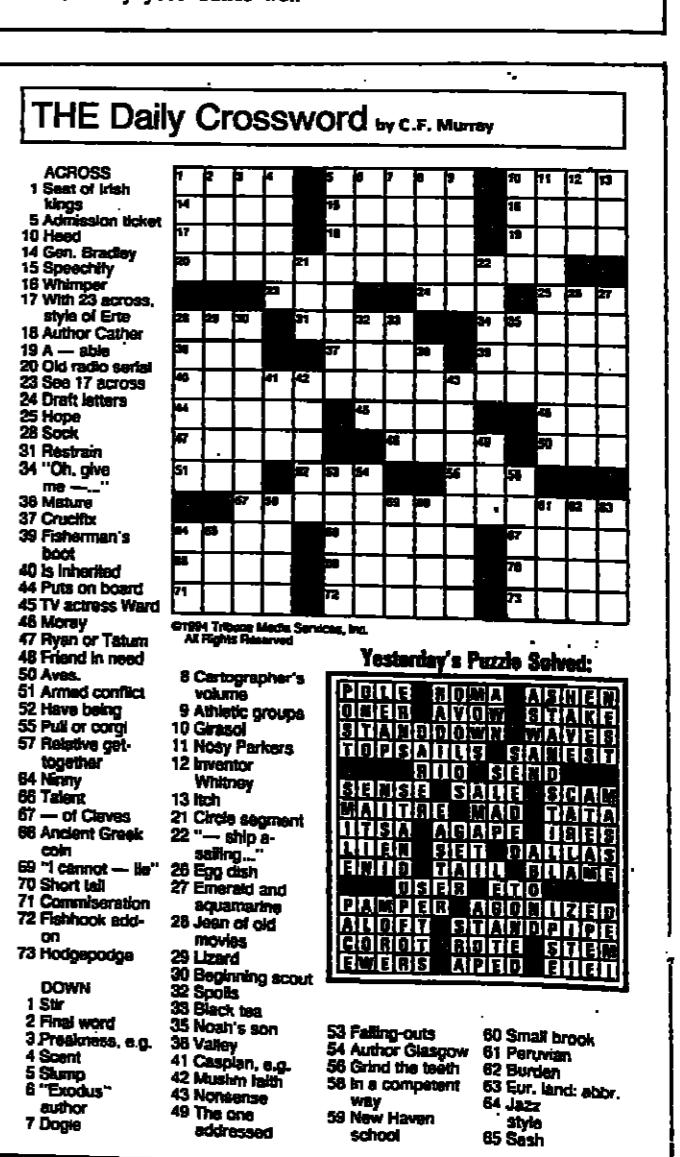
Andy Capp



Print answer here: -

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: SCARY ELITE MYRIAD CORNEA
Answer: In one year and out the other — CALENDARS



U.S. may urge U.N. to plan N. Korea sanctions

Seoul to hold security meeting over nuclear row with North

SEOUL (R) — South Korea called an emergency meeting of ministers for Monday after diplomatic moves to end the North Korean nuclear row broke down and the United States prepared to pile on the pressure.

North Korea walked out of a border meeting with the South Saturday, warning that confrontation on the issue could spread to war.

The United States said it would reschedule its suspended military exercises with South Korea unless the situation changed by Monday. Washington, according to the New York Times, will ask the United Nations Security Council to prepare for sanctions against the Stalinist North.

China said it would urge its ally to open suspect nuclear sites to full international inspection but told an anxious Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to be patient.

A Seoul government official said President Kim Young-Sam would call security-related cabinet ministers to an emergency meeting Monday morning.

He did not elaborate. State radio and Yonhap News Agency said they were expected to discuss resumption of the "Team Spirit" military exercises and ways to support U.N. Young-Dae told reporters.

Mr. Kim this month was quoted as saying he believed international sanctions were now inevitable.

North Korea, which denies Western charges that it may be producing a nuclear bomb from its atomic plants, finally this month allowed inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to visit.

But the team said last week that Pyongyang had not given it unfettered access to nuclear sites.

The United States had held two rounds of talks with the North. It said Team Spirit would be suspended and a third round of talks, scheduled for Geneva Monday, would go ahead only if IAEA inspections were satisfactory and the North agreed to an exchange of envoys with the South to try to settle the row.

Saturday's meeting at the

border hamlet of Panmunjom to discuss the envoy swap lasted just 55 minutes.

"North Korea said Seoul

was not very far from here and that it could be in flames," the South's chief negotiator Song

Young-Dae told reporters.

"Confrontations can spread to war. We are prepared to answer back with talks for war or war for war." Mr. Song quoted the North Koreans as saying.

President Bill Clinton's national security advisers later met for over three hours. "If circumstances don't change by Monday, Team Spirit will be rescheduled. We will be consulting with the South Koreans on the timing of the exercise," an official said afterwards.

The official also said Washington was consulting with Seoul on when to send Patriot missiles to bolster U.S. defences in South Korea, something that had been shelved when it appeared tensions with the North had eased.

In the meantime, it is also important to give North Korea what it wants," Mr. Li said. He did not elaborate but Beijing has called for Washington to establish diplomatic relations with Pyongyang.

Mr. Hosokawa told Mr. Li:

"Japan is gravely concerned about the situation and the possibility is increasing that the matter will be referred to the United Nations Security Council... I believe the international community is losing patience."



U.S. President Bill Clinton talks to Zlata Filipovic, 13, whose diary of life in Sarajevo has become a bestseller around the world, during an intermission of the taping of ABC television's Children's Town Hall Meeting in the East Room of the White House (AP Photo)

Clinton tells children U.S. is too dangerous

WASHINGTON (R) — President Clinton told a group of children at the White House Saturday that the United States is "too dangerous" and said if he had one wish, it would be for a safe childhood for all of them.

In a televised "town hall" meeting with 50 children, Mr. Clinton said America had been a lot safer when he was growing up and he thought many of today's children had been born into a "pretty lousy situation."

His audience included Annie Nichol, the younger sister of Polly Klaas, who was abducted from her Petaluma, California, home last Oct. 1 and killed. The accused killer has a long criminal record.

Seven-year-old Annie wondered aloud to the president if she would live to grow up, saying, "I just don't feel safe."

"You do live in a country that's too dangerous," Mr. Clinton told her. "And we have to make it less dangerous. And it is a huge obligation that I feel. And I think about it every day."

"Now the question is, will the Serbs agree to sign on? Will they agree to give up some of the territory they took so that everybody can live with a fair piece of land, and we can stop killing the adults and the children? I think we're closer. And we're working very hard on it," Mr. Clinton said.

One little boy who was not identified demanded to know why are you fighting a war in another country (Bosnia) when you have a war right here?" — a reference to inner-city violence.

"Mr. Clinton quickly explained that "we're not fighting a war there" in Bosnia, because there were no U.S. troops on the ground.

But he added, "I agree that the war here at home is killing more people than a lot of wars overseas," and said he was trying to fight it with his crime bill.

"When I was a kid, people beat each other up... Nobody ever shot anybody," the 47-year-old president said.

Mr. Clinton took questions from the children for 90 minutes in a session televised nationally by ABC, which selected the participants. They were all Americans with the exception of Zlata Filipovic, a 13-year-old Sarajevo girl who has written a diary of the Bosnian war.

The battle between reformers and hardliners that marked Russia's parliamentary elections in December is being repeated in the elections being held almost every Sunday this month.

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The children raised subjects ranging from health care and cigarettes to cancer and abortion. One boy made a plea not to raise federal cattle-grazing fees, saying it would destroy his family's ranch.

Inkatha distances itself from scandal

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party sought Sunday to distance itself from a mushrooming dirty-tricks scandal implicating senior police men in attempts to derail South Africa's march to democracy.

Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's party, which is boycotting next month's first all-race elections, also rejected a compromise suggestion from President F.W. De Klerk that it contest provincial elections in its KwaZulu-Natal heartland.

"The IFP has learned with alarm of the Goldstone Commission report alleging that there is prima facie evidence that senior members of Inkatha have received arms from South African police generals and other high-ranking officers," Inkatha's policy-making Central Working Committee said in a statement.

South African Appeals Court Judge Richard Goldstone told a news conference Friday he had evidence that the deputy police commissioner, General Basie Smit, was among those involved.

Judge Goldstone said fast action was needed to avoid further destabilisation before the April 26-28 elections, which the rival African National Congress is expected to win comfortably.

"This is another in the series of dirty tricks designed to discredit the IFP and its leadership and to warn our members that more negative campaigning against the IFP can be expected in the run-up to the elections," the Inkatha state said.

Judge Goldstone was appointed by the government to investigate the causes of political violence which has killed about 15,000 people in four years of apartheid reform. ANC and Inkatha rivalry has been blamed for most of the deaths.

Judge Goldstone said most actions listed in his report, including supply of weapons and fuelling of violence on trains and in migrant worker hostels, were directed at the Inkatha.

President F.W. De Klerk said Gen. Smit, Police Intelligence Chief Major-General Krappies Engelbrecht, Lieutenant-General Johan Le Roux and other officers had been put on compulsory leave following the Goldstone report.

The general told the Sunday Times newspaper they were seeking legal advice about the allegations.

Gen. Smit denied overseeing the manufacture and distribution of weapons to Inkatha.

"Not in a million years would it be possible, practical or true that I would get involved in deliberately destabilising my country. It is utter nonsense," he told the newspaper. "I am not a man who deals in allegations. I deal in facts. The Goldstone report refers to information. But information is not proof. No court will convict a man on the strength of information."

The Goldstone report said an experienced officer, identified only as "O", had made the allegations to investigators.

Tycoon pays \$1.67m for number plate

HONG KONG (R) — A Hong Kong tycoon has paid \$1.67 million for a lucky number nine car number plate but not without a rumpus from a losing bidder toting a mobile phone, a local newspaper reported. Nine in the local Cantonese dialect sounds like the word for dog and this is the Year of the Dog in the Chinese calendar, making it an auspicious number. But just as the gavel went down in the record-breaking auction at Hong Kong dollars 13 million (\$1.67 million) Saturday, a would-be bidder leapt from the crowd, the Sunday Morning Post reported.

"Can you wait? My mobile phone hasn't rung yet," cried an impatient Wong Ka-Lung. "My boss can offer a higher price — up to Hong Kong dollars 15 million (\$1.92 million). I'm waiting for instructions." The auction was reopened but Wong left without increasing the bid. "I'm not in a mood to bid again. I can't contact my boss and I'm very upset," he said. The paper said Albert Yeung, chairman of Hong Kong property and investment company the Emperor Group, won the bidding for the plate, formerly owned by his late friend Sir Tang Siu-Kin.

Marisa Berenson to be UNESCO ambassador

PARIS (AP) — Actress Marisa Berenson will be named Goodwill Ambassador for UNESCO, the organisation announced Saturday. The American actress, already a member of UNESCO's Council on Culture, would receive her ambassador's "passport" from the organisation's director general, Federico Mayor in a ceremony Wednesday. Miss Berenson, 46, last year organised a project called "artists and difference," to help handicapped artists reveal their talents.

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Actress Lena Olin marries director Hallstrom

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Actress Lena Olin and director Lars Hallstrom were married at a secret ceremony in Stockholm, the newspaper Expressen reported Saturday. Olin wore a plain, long, white dress and cowboy boots. Hallstrom wore the conventional white tie and tails during the marriage service. The bride's 7-year-old son August served as best man and only two friends of the couple attended the ceremony at the fashionable Oscar Church. Olin, 38, recently starred with Richard Gere in Mr. Jones and with Robert Redford in Havana. Her latest film was Romeo's Bleeding. Hallstrom, 47, won worldwide acclaim with his Swedish-made film, My Life As A Dog. He recently received strong reviews for his latest U.S. production, What's Eating Gilbert Grape.

15-year-old undelivered mail found

CHICAGO (AP) — Several hours after a stack of undelivered mail was found burning on a footpath, a cache of 20,000 pieces of mail from the 1970s was discovered, postal officials reported. In both cases, most of the mail was junk mail, officials said Friday. The discoveries are the latest in a series of embarrassments that is bringing Postmaster General Marvin Runyon to Chicago Monday at the request of Illinois' U.S. senators. Last month, 40,000 pieces of 2-month-old, undelivered mail, mostly first-class, was found in a letter carrier's delivery truck.

Sandwiched between them is a small centrist alliance whose leading light, former Christian Democrat leader Mino Martazzoli, may well end up holding the balance of power.

Forecasts of the outcome have been complicated both by the large number of undecided voters and a complex system of proportional representation under which 25 per cent of the seats in both parliamentary houses will be allocated.

"To say this election is more unpredictable than most is a considerable understatement,"

Italian election may prolong political chaos

ROME (R) — Italy goes to the polls to elect a new parliament next week after two of the most tumultuous years in its post-war history, but political analysts say the upheaval may not be over yet.

The March 27 and 28 vote will finally sweep from power a political generation already decimated by scandal and widely despised as a corrupt, self-serving clique.

New majority voting rules will also mark the effective end of Italy's exceptionally pure proportional representation, held responsible for its infamous revolving-door governments.

What the election probably will not do, many analysts believe, is to give the country what it so badly needs — strong, stable government.

"I see only a black hole," said veteran commentator Bruno Montanelli. "I imagine a situation of complete ungovernability."

Others predict the most likely outcome will be a hung parliament and another interim government like that of current Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, charged with passing an electoral reform law that can at last be guaranteed to give one party a working

majority.

Either way, they say, financial markets will probably not derive much satisfaction from the outcome, with the lira likely to be the first to suffer from any loss of investor confidence.

The uncertainty stems from Italy's perennial problems: The inability of any one cohesive group to win an absolute majority in the 630-seat Chamber of Deputies.

Polls show the two main contenders, a rightist alliance led by media millionaire Silvio Berlusconi and a leftist bloc grouped around the former Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), winning about 45 per cent and 35 per cent of the vote respectively.

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The best hope for stability, most analysts say, is for the more solid PDS coalition to underpin a governing alliance with a recognised figure of authority at its head like Mr. Ciampi or Mr. Romano Prodi, head of the giant IRU state holding.

Whilst the new parliament's ability to govern may be in doubt, its legitimacy will at least be assured.

The continued existence in government of parties accused of corruption, embezzlement and worse in the two-year Tangentopoli (Bribesville) scandal had enraged opposition leaders and debased the image of Italian democracy.

"That was a deliberate signal," said Corriere Della Sera newspaper Sunday. "It said whoever wins this election, ultimately they will have to reckon with us."

Helicopter shot down in Northern Ireland

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Crossmaglen is centre of lawless borderland nicknamed "bandit country" and noted for frequent IRA ambushes. The army has long moved about the area by helicopter because of the threat of roadside bombs.

The helicopter was preparing to land at a heavily fortified army barracks in Crossmaglen, a Roman Catholic border town about 50 miles (80 kms) southwest of Belfast, when an apparent Irish Republican Army (IRA) missile struck the craft and sent it crashing in flames onto the landing pad, police said.

A policeman on board was seriously injured and taken to a hospital while the army pilot and two crewmen leaped safely from the copter, police said.

It is now commonly accepted fact, within and beyond the Ulster Unionist Party, that the joint declaration has now run its course," James Molyneaux told the ruling council of his Protestant-based party before the Crossmaglen attack.

"The attack brought into sharp focus growing frustrations with the multitude of talk, but no results, stemming from the Northern Ireland peace process.

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لبنان في بيروت

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1994 9

Norway wins Paralympics

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — Host Norway was the overall winner when the sixth Paralympic Winter Games ended Saturday, with Germany second in the medals count and the United States in third.

And as the games closed, organisers announced that they were sending 10 Olympic and Paralympic champions — including figure skater Katarina Witt of Germany and Nordic skier Vegard Ulvang of Norway — on missions of peace to Sarajevo, the war-torn capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A news release said they were also sending the Paralympic flame to the devastated 1984 Winter Olympic city as a symbol of peace. It said details were being settled, but the flame was to arrive about March 29.

In addition to Witt and Ulvang, eight others were going to Sarajevo on behalf of Peace Flame '94, "Paralympic" organisers said. They include Adrienne Rivera of the United States, Bart Veldkamp of the Netherlands and Kristin Otto and Alexander Spitz of Germany.

During the nine days of Paralympic competition in Lillehammer, Norway took 29 gold

medals, 22 silver and 13 bronze for a total of 64 medals. Second place Germany also took 64 medals, although it's 25 gold and 21 silver did not match Norway.

The U.S. team failed to defend its overall win at the 1992 Paralympics, finishing third with 24 gold, 12 silver and 18 bronze for a total of 43 medals.

About 1,000 athletes and coaches from 31 countries took over many of the arenas built for the 1994 Winter Olympics held last month in the South Norway town of Lillehammer. The handicapped athletes competed in classes reflecting their disabilities.

The Norwegians picked up 10 medals, including six gold, on the Nordic ski trial Saturday to clinch the overall win.

Norwegian skier Aage Jonsberg won his fifth gold of the games Saturday by beating teammate Stein Lilleberg in the men's 20-kilometer classical technique cross-country race in the class for those disabled below one knee. Jonsberg finished in 54 minutes 19.2 seconds, or 19.1 seconds ahead of Lilleberg.

During the nine days of Paralympic competition in Lille-

Nets better from floor than foul line in loss in Phoenix

PHOENIX, Arizona (R) — When an NBA team shoots better from the floor than from the free throw line it's in trouble. And that's where the New Jersey Nets found themselves Saturday against the Phoenix Suns.

New Jersey made just 20-of-44 free throws as the Suns pulled away for a 105-93 win on balanced scoring led by Dan Majerle's 22 points.

The Nets made 49 per cent of their field goals (34-of-70) compared to 46 per cent from the charity stripe.

A.C. Green and Cedric Ceballos added 18 points apiece while Charles Barkley had 15 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists for Phoenix, which snapped a two-game skid. Green had 13 rebounds.

In San Antonio, David Robinson scored 18 of his 48 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Spurs past the Sacramento Kings 107-110.

Robinson added 16 rebounds and six assists in topping the 40-point mark for the sixth time this season.

Dale Ellis, who connected for his 1,000th career 3-pointer midway through the third quarter, netted 18 points for

the Spurs, who have won six of their last eight games.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 12 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter and Mario Elie had 21 points and a career-high 15 rebounds to lead the Rockets to a 106-88 triumph over the Detroit Pistons.

The Rockets won their fourth straight game.

First-place Houston (45-17) maintained a one-half game lead over San Antonio in the Midwest and moved to within one-half game of Seattle for the best record in the league.

In Miami, Glen Rice scored 20 of his 33 points in the second half to lead the sizzling Heat to a 106-95 triumph over the undermanned Cleveland Cavaliers.

Rice was 13-of-17 from the field, including 5-of-7 from 3-point range, and Miami made 59 per cent of its field goals.

Miami (37-27), which has won four straight games and is 19-6 since January 27, moved within one victory of the franchise record of 38, set in 1991-92.

In New York, Patrick Ewing scored 35 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead the New York Knicks to a 105-91 vic-

tory over the Boston Celtics.

The Knicks have won a season-high nine straight games but allowed 90 points for the first time in that span.

The Knicks scored 16 consecutive points to open the fourth quarter on the way to sweeping (4-0) of Boston since 1970-71.

At Indiana, Rik Smits scored 19 points, including two free throws with 35 seconds left to snap a 103-103 tie, as the Pacers held on to beat the Utah Jazz 107-103.

Reggie Miller, who scored 17 points, and Sam Mitchell each hit a free throw in the final seconds for the Pacers, who squandered a 19-point lead.

In Dallas, Latrell Sprewell scored 24 points to lead four players with 20 or more points as the Golden State Warriors handed the Mavericks their 11th straight loss 116-107.

Chris Gatling (9-of-11 from the field) added 21 points and 15 rebounds in 28 minutes off the bench, while Chris Mullin and Billy Owens chipped in 20 points apiece for Golden State.

The Warriors won for only the third time in seven games.

Graf loses set, but wins Lipton Championships title

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R)

— Top-seeded Steffi Graf lost her first set of the year, but won the battle 4-6 6-1 6-2 over ninth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of Belarus Saturday in the \$3.3 million Lipton Championships final.

The amazing Graf had just set a record when she won the semifinals over American Lindsay Davenport Thursday — becoming the first player in 10 years to win 27 consecutive matches without dropping a set. Monica Seles held the previous record, having won 26 consecutive matches without losing a set between 1990 Lipton and 1990 French Open.

The top-ranked Graf has won all 28 matches she's played in 1994 and 32 overall matches since losing to Spanish Conchita Martinez in the finals of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia last November.

Saturday's win makes Graf the first player to win three consecutive titles on tour since Martina Navratilova in 1990. Graf just won Indian Wells, the Virginia Slims of Florida and the Lipton Championships.

She also won the coveted Australian Open and Pan Pacific event earlier this year to bring her career titles count to 84.

Now all Graf wants is to rest.

"I'm really tired of tennis at the moment, to tell you the truth," Graf said, after winning the \$150,000 first prize. "I'm ready for a couple of days off, for myself. It's been ten-

nis, tennis, tennis. I need a break from that."

Ironically, Graf's match-winning streak began with the 14th-ranked Zvereva when she beat the Belarus native in the opening round of the Virginia Slims championships last November.

Despite the loss, Zvereva will be remembered as the first player to take a set from the unconquerable Graf in 1994.

The capacity crowd was well aware of Zvereva's achievement after she won the first set they treated her to a standing ovation.

"That was huge," Zvereva said of the crowd support. "I appreciated it so much. It was so loud. She improved her play in the final two sets — having only nine unforced errors in each of the remaining two sets.

Graf tied Zvereva with 35 unforced errors for the match — 17 of Graf's errors were in the first set. She improved her play in the final two sets —

Graf had 31 winners in the match, while Zvereva only had 17.

The tide turned in Graf's favour almost from the outset of the second set. Zvereva only held serve once, in the second game, of the middle set.

In the third set, Graf took a 4-1 lead with two service breaks. Zvereva recouped one service break in the sixth game, but Graf won the final two games to remain undefeated in 1994.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wachter takes GS crown

VAIL, Colo. (AP) — Collecting another crystal trophy Saturday, Venerable Vreni Schneider has enough of the precious glass to open a business back home in Switzerland. Schneider officially clinched the women's World Cup overall title Saturday with one race remaining in the season. Austria's Anita Wachter claimed the giant slalom title for the season, while teammate Christian Mayer held off fast-closing Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway to take the men's GS crown. Schneider, whose 50 World Cup victories trail only Austrian Anne-Marie Moser-Proell's 62 wins on the all-time women's list, gained the second overall title of her 10-year career. Schneider, 29, could have backed into the title, since her only threat, Sweden's Pernilla Wiberg, did not compete in Saturday's giant slalom because of an injury. Instead, the Swiss ace finished a solid second to Martina Ertl of Germany in the race.

Golden season continues for Koss

HEERENVEEN, Netherlands (AP) — Norway's Johann Olav Koss continued his golden season Saturday, winning a 1,000-metre race and taking the lead for the fourth time this year. He shattered the 47-second barrier to clock 46.74 and continue an astonishing run in which he has improved the 100 freestyle world short-course mark in each of the four World Cup meetings he has contested in 1994.

Popov continues record spree

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany (R) — Olympic champion Alexander Popov of Russia cracked the men's 100 metres freestyle short-course world record Saturday for the fourth time this year. He shattered the 47-second barrier to clock 46.74 and continue an astonishing run in which he has improved the 100 freestyle world short-course mark in each of the four World Cup meetings he has contested in 1994.

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BE WARNED BY THE BARD

Both vulnerable, South deals.
NORTH
♦ A J 7
♦ 9 3
♦ 7 4 3
♦ Q J 6 3
WEST
2 5 4 1 9 6 3
♦ Q 10 7 4 3 6 2 3
♦ 8 5
♦ K 8 4 2
♦ 5
SOUTH
♦ K Q 8 2
♦ A J 5
♦ A 10 6
♦ A 10 6
The bidding:
South North East
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♦
The post Alexander Pope must have been a whist player. This line: "A little learning is a dangerous thing" had to refer to the players at East and West, a comment for its high-stakes bidding. It certainly applies to South, our declarer at three no trump, on this hand.

The bidding was unremarkable. With a full-bodied 18 points, South wasted no time in accepting partner's invitation raise to two no trump.

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Andretti wins opening Indycar race

SURFERS PARADISE, Australia (R) — American Michael Andretti, smarting from his failure to make the grade in Formula One, made a triumphant return to Indycar racing by winning the season's opening race in near-darkness Sunday.

Andretti, 31, who quit after just one season as Ayrton Senna's teammate at McLaren, outlasted defending Indycar champion Nigel Mansell to win the series opener in Australia. "This victory means so much to me after what I went through last year," said Andretti, Indycar champion in 1991.

Andretti took the lead on the opening lap and held off veteran Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi to win by more than four seconds as the light faded badly under gathering storm clouds.

The poor conditions prompted Indycar officials to cut short the scheduled 65-lap race by 10 laps after consultations with drivers.

"I was starting to call for an early finish for five or six laps," said Andretti, whose father, Mario, completed by a memorable day for the family by

finishing third.

"I started to miss a couple of corners and it was getting to the point where it could have been dangerous. They (the officials) made a good call."

"It was getting so dark out there it was difficult to see," he added.

But it was a day of frustration for Mansell, who wasted pole position to finish a disappointing ninth after twice spinning out of control.

The 40-year-old Englishman, who won here last year on his Indycar debut, described the race as "crazy."

"I can honestly say I have never been in a race like that in my life," said Mansell, who finished more than a lap behind the winner.

"The weather conditions, which nobody can control, turned the race into a bit of a lottery."

The race began at the third attempt, more than two hours late, following a succession of setbacks.

After an initial delay for a tyre change because of rain, the race was further disrupted by a series of multiple collisions during the warm-up laps.

Bentt career in doubt

LONDON (R) — American heavyweight champion Michael Bentt's future in boxing was in doubt Sunday after doctors revealed he suffered brain injuries during his world title defeat by Britain's Herbie Hide. Bentt collapsed in his dressing-room and was taken to hospital after Hide had snatched his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) heavyweight crown with a seventh-round knockout Saturday. Doctors found he had a "concussive brain injury" which could result in permanent damage if he entered the ring again.

Bentt's manager, Stan Hoffman, said would instruct Bentt not to continue boxing.

Speaking at the Royal Hospital, where Bentt is recovering in a neurosurgical ward, Hoffman said: "He's a warrior. The first thing he's going to say is I feel fine."

The weather conditions, which nobody can control, turned the race into a bit of a lottery."

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tyre change because of rain, the race was further disrupted by a series of multiple collisions during the warm-up laps.

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